

CHAPTER 4

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Reclamation has consulted and coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries, and the IRC contractors (Table 1) in the preparation of the environmental documents for this proposed interim renewal action. The public was invited to review and comment on the *Draft Supplemental EA for the 2002 Renewal of Interim Water Service Contracts* for a 30-day review period that began on December 23, 2003 and ended January 23, 2004. A press release announcing the Draft EA/FONSI publication was sent to all interested parties, announced and made available for viewing on the Mid-Pacific Region web page, and announced at meetings conducted by Reclamation for proposed renewal of the long-term water service contracts.

4.1 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

In 2000, Reclamation completed formal ESA consultation on IRCs, and the FWS issued a biological opinion dated February 29, 2000. On February 28, 2001, the FWS issued a memorandum extending that 2000 biological opinion through February of 2002. In February 2002, the FWS issued a biological opinion amending the February 2000 biological opinion, which extended the 2000 biological opinion through February of 2004.

Reclamation consulted formally on the CVC Unit long-term water service contracts and received a biological opinion on January 19, 2001. Relative to the CVC Unit Contractors in the interim contract period, Reclamation and the CVC Unit Contractors have committed to comply with their requirements of the long-term contract biological opinion.

In 2002, Reclamation completed ESA consultation on interim contracts with NOAA Fisheries for a period of up to two years. NOAA Fisheries, by letter dated February 22, 2002, concurred with Reclamation's determination that the renewal of 2-year interim water service contracts will not likely adversely affect Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon, Central Valley steelhead, or their designated critical habitat. Formal consultation on the CVC Unit's long-term water service contracts was completed in January 2001. Reclamation and the CVC Unit Contractors have committed to comply with the NOAA Fisheries long-term contract BO as part of the approval of these interim contracts.

Reclamation formally re-initiated ESA consultation with USFWS on November 5, 2003

and with NOAA Fisheries on November 14, 2003 regarding the proposed contract renewal action. Reclamation has completed section 7 consultations with NOAA Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the proposed action of renewing interim water service contracts (IRCs) for the term of March 1, 2004 through February 28, 2006. The Supplemental Biological Opinions from the FWS and the letter of concurrence from NOAA are presented in Appendix H and I respectively.